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6 March 1950

PROPOSED INTERAGENCY OPERATING PROCEDURE

SUBJECT: Permanent Watch Committee

AGENCIES PARTICIPATING IN THIS AGREEMENT: Central Intelligence Agency
Department of State
Department of the Army
Department of the Navy
Department of the Air Force

1. A permanent interagency intelligence committee (hereinafter referred to as the Watch Committee) is hereby established for the purpose of providing timely warning of Soviet military action. To this end the Watch Committee is expected:

a. to focus the attention of intelligence analysts on specific political, economic, scientific and military indicators (positive and negative) of Soviet intentions to resort to military action in the near future, and

b. to provide an effective mechanism for interagency exchange of views on this subject at the working level.

2. The Watch Committee shall act under the Chairmanship of the Central Intelligence Agency and shall be comprised of the currently constituted "Check List Group" which is hereby redesignated the Watch Committee.

3. The Watch Committee shall, in the first instance, review the methods of procedure established by the Check List Group, placing particular emphasis on emergency procedures which will ensure its

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capability of functioning on short notice on a twenty-four hour basis.

4. Each member of the Watch Committee shall have free and speedy access to his superiors, including the highest level of intelligence authority in his agency, in order that official approval may be obtained on the handling of important situations without delay.

5. The Watch Committee shall conduct regularly scheduled bi-weekly meetings at ten o'clock in the morning on Wednesdays at places designated by the Chairman. Attendance at Watch Committee meetings shall be regarded as having priority over any other duty assigned to Watch Committee members. In addition to the regularly scheduled meetings, special meetings and emergency meetings will be called by the Chairman, Watch Committee, whenever the situation warrants such action.

6. The Watch Committee shall utilize the Check List and the Check list network presently employed for the above stated purposes, in the conduct of its operations.

7. Each of the agencies represented on the Watch Committee is considered responsible for the evaluation of check list indicators in its fields of dominant interest, as set forth in National Security Council Intelligence Directive No. 3, and for dissemination thereof to the Central Intelligence Agency Chairman. In addition each agency has the concomitant responsibility for developing new "indicators" required to round out, improve, and maintain the Check List as an effective working instrument.

8. Specific responsibilities of the members of the Watch Committee shall include, but are not necessarily limited to, those set forth below:

a. The Central Intelligence Agency Chairman shall:

(1) Maintain the master Check List.

(2) Convene the Watch Committee as the need arises,

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either on his own initiative or when requested by any member.

(3) Prepare bi-weekly summaries of the activities of the Watch Committee for the Director of Central Intelligence and the Directors of the participating intelligence agencies.

(4) Be responsible for the production of summaries based on developments as shown by information pertaining to the "indicators" and on evaluations thereof by the respective members of the Watch Committee. Such summaries shall serve as a basis for production by CIA of coordinated national intelligence estimates.

(5) Ensure that the activities of Watch Committee effectively support the objectives of the Jackpot Committee.

b. Each Departmental Member of the Watch Committee shall:

(1) Maintain departmental Check List corresponding to fields of responsibility of his agency for intelligence production.

(2) Forward to the Central Intelligence Agency Chairman:

(a) Information concerning any of the "indicators" and his evaluation thereof. If there is an indication of impending Soviet military action, he shall immediately inform all members.

(b) Reports of emergency action taken, if any, as a result of intelligence items of urgent nature.

(c) Proposals for the addition of new "indicators" or the deletion of "indicators" considered no longer valid.

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(3) Prepare, or provide, as required, summaries of intelligence bearing on those "indicators" which fall within his department's particular fields of responsibility.

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